Historic Wyre Website User Guide

Website Purpose

There are two main purposes for this site:
1. Interpreting LIDAR images to reveal archaeological features.
2. Advice and information on archaeological features.

Interpreting LIDAR images

The 2007 LIDAR survey images can be browsed by using either the vertical slider to zoom in and out or by using the mouse, which also allows the user to pan sideways across the map. Surface features of archaeological potential were traced from the LIDAR images. When the 'Choose your Layers' window is opened the user will see separate data layers for points, lines and polygon features.

Advice and Information

On the main map, if you click on an archaeological feature (line, point or polygon) with the left mouse button you can find out more about the feature. If you, as a landowner or land manager with archaeological features under your care, click on a link it will open a document specific to that selected feature, providing additional guidance and advice.

Using the Map View Window

The map view window opens with the Historic Wyre Project Area in the centre. The large greyscale shape is the LIDAR imagery. At the top of the map there are four menus: *Choose your Layers, Background Maps, Navigate to a location* and *Tools*.

The following sections explain each of those menus.

Choose your Layers

Move your mouse pointer over the double chevron button on the top right of the menu and use the left mouse button to expand the menu.

To the left of each heading is a cross. Select this to expand the sub-list and select, or deselect each layer to turn it on or off in the display. This is useful if, for example, you would like to view the LIDAR imagery without the archaeological interpretation. Deselect the three layers under the Archaeological Features to remove them from the display.

Other headings in this menu allow you to display various map boundaries and, if you wish, to deselect the LIDAR imagery so that archaeological features can be viewed against the backdrop of Ordnance Survey mapping.

At the bottom of the menu is a slider control labelled *opacity*. This control allows you to fade the LIDAR imagery to make the background map more visible. This is particularly useful if you would like to compare the LIDAR and archaeological features with Ordnance Survey map detail. As a guide, set opacity to 50% then adjust to suit the level of detail you want.

Background Maps

To move the background map in any direction place your mouse pointer near the centre of the screen and hold down the select button (usually left mouse button) while moving the mouse to alter the relative position of the map.

Place your mouse pointer over the double chevron button on the top right of the menu labelled *Background Maps* to expand the menu. To the left of each heading is a radio button. Hover over the radio button that corresponds to the type of map you want to view and then apply a left click to switch on the map. The vector map has been switched on in the example above.

Navigate to a location

The 'Navigate to a location' menu allows the user to enter a map reference, for example SO7877. This type of search will take the viewer to the centre point of a 1 kilometre square area. Alternatively, if you know the Ordnance Survey grid reference for an exact location you are interested in then enter the full x and y coordinates (e.g. 378000 277000) to zoom to that location. You can also search by postcode to view an area around a certain property or street. Enter the full postcode then click go and zoom the map to the location.

Tools

The tools menu allows the user to carry out the following functions:

 Zoom to a previous extent in the map view.

Zoom out to see the full extent of the LIDAR survey area.

Go forward in your series of map views. This will only work if you have returned to map view areas using either ⬅ or 🌐

Use this tool to clear any selected features.

Select this to measure distances across the map. Use your left mouse button to select start and finish points.

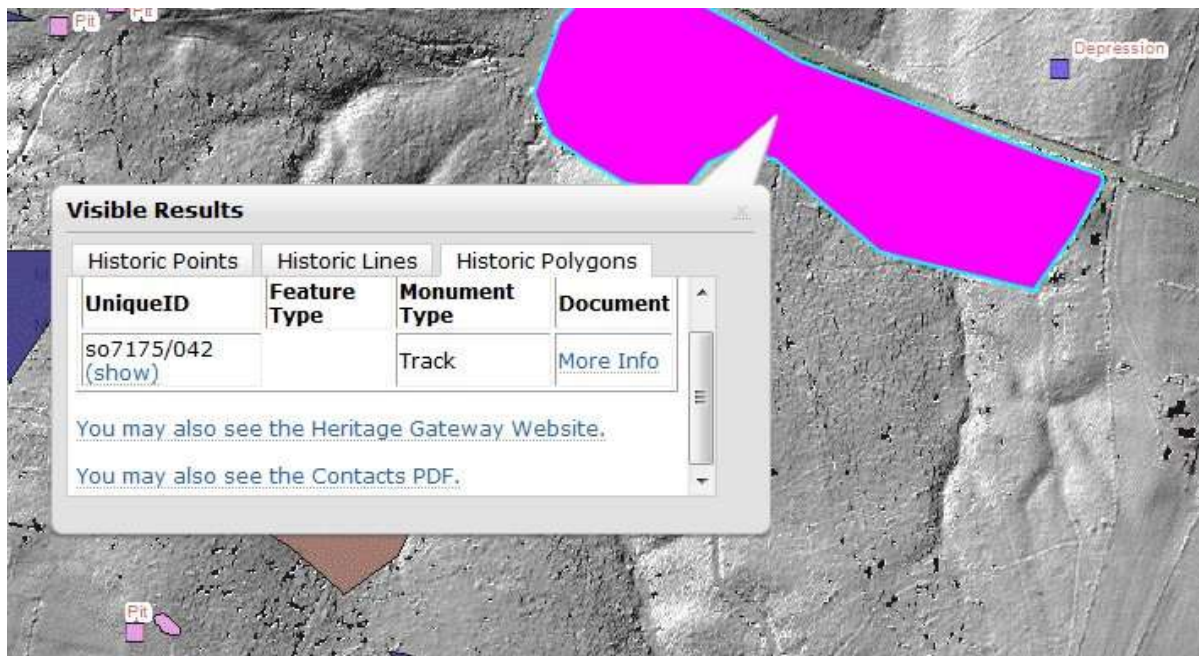This tool will allow you to search for an address.

The contacts tool will help you to retrieve contact details for organisations involved in curating the archaeology of Wyre Forest and also organisation that own and manage some of the land and nature reserves in Wyre.

Select this help button to access this help document at any time.

To find out more about an archaeological feature

Move your mouse pointer over any feature visible in the map view then select the feature by pressing the left mouse button. A window titled *Visible Results* should open (see below).
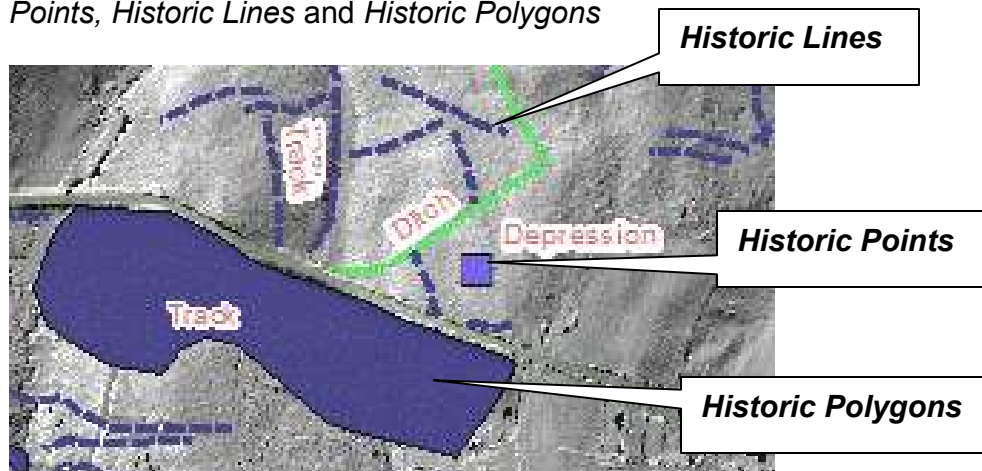
Select the tab that relates to the type of feature selected either: *historic points, historic lines or historic polygons* (please refer to glossary for information). The example above is a *historic polygon*. The window will display the Unique ID of the feature. This is the number allocated to the feature in the LIDAR survey. You should always quote Unique ID numbers if you wish to contact the Historic Environment Record for further information about a feature or features. Select *show* to highlight the feature in the map view. Under the *Feature Type* heading is a short description of the feature. The *Monument Type* heading shows which general class the feature belongs to. Under *Document*, select the more info link to open a PDF document that contains a generic description and interpretation of features related to the class type. Each document also contains information about opportunities for conservation and management of the feature type. This will be of particular use to landowners who have features under their care. Please contact the relevant county Historic Environment Record for more specific advice. Follow the link: *You may also see the contacts PDF* or select ▣ to open the contacts document from the map view.

Glossary

Feature or *features*:
The general term used to describe archaeological remains that are visible and have been recorded by LIDAR. The mapping of features has been done in three groups: *Historic Points, Historic Lines* and *Historic Polygons*

Historic Points: small features, such as charcoal burning hearths or a single pit

Historic Lines: long narrow features, such as tracks or ditches

Historic Polygons: large area features, such as settlement earthworks, or groups of features, such as interlaced tracks.

Historic Environment Record:
Worcestershire and Shropshire Councils maintain a comprehensive database of archaeological information called the Historic Environment Record. Please refer to the *contacts* section of this website for details.

GIS:
A Geographical Information System is a computer system that can capture, store, manipulate, edit, analyse, manage, and present all types of geographical data, usually against the background of a digital map.

Layer:
A particular set of data that can be viewed in a GIS website or software. In the context of the Historic Wyre website, all the archaeological features are stored in three separate layers.

LIDAR:
Light Detection and Ranging is a type of (usually) aerial survey that uses high density, low power lasers to record the topography of the ground surface in very high detail. LIDAR does not record archaeology that is below the surface, but there may be below ground archaeology associated with surface features, such as settlement and industrial remains.

Topography:
The study of the Earth's surface; the natural terrain and also variations created as a result of human activity and vegetation. Topography is represented on Ordnance Survey maps as contour lines and variations in colour as well as text descriptions, for example, descriptive words such as, *hill*, *valley* or *vale*.